

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) In a distributed computing environment, a method for transmitting a message from a first e-business entity to selected ones of a plurality of second e-business entities, comprising:

providing a registry service including a plurality of service interfaces;

registering a plurality of second e-business entities with the service interfaces by subscriptions that include information regarding the respective second e-business entities subscribing to a service interface by the certain ones of a first plurality of e-business entities operating on a plurality of enterprise computer system protocols, wherein the service interface contains a list of second plurality of e-business entities and wherein a subscription is created which is in communication with a broker via a query manager interface;

receiving a message from a first e-business entity at the registry service publishing the message to the broker by the first entity, the broker being in communication with the service interface via the query manager interface;

querying the service interfaces and accessing one of the service interfaces based on content of the message;

querying the accessed service interface and multicasting the message to at least one of the second e-business entities registered with the accessed service interface based on the information included in the respective subscriptions determining the selected ones of the first plurality of e-business entities to receive the message by the broker;  
 multicasting the message to the selected ones of the plurality of e-business entities based upon the determining by the broker, such that the first entity is not required to know any one of the plurality of enterprise computer system protocols;

~~receiving the message through a multicast protocol at each of the selected ones of the plurality of e-business entities;~~

~~reviewing the message at each of the selected ones of the plurality of e-business entities~~

~~determining if a response to the message is to be generated at each of the selected ones of the plurality of e-business entities based upon the reviewing;~~

~~publishing the response to the service interface based upon the determining;~~

~~publishing the response to the broker by the service interface; and~~

~~publishing the response to the first e-business entity by the broker.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:  
 setting an expiration time for the published message after receiving the published message received from the first e-business entity;

if it is determined that none of the plurality of second e-business entities is to receive the message;

then until the expiration time lapses, retaining the ~~published~~ message at the registry service~~in the broker~~;

determining if an appropriate one of the plurality of second e-business entities has subsequently subscribed to the accessed one of the service interface~~interfaces~~ so as to be identified to receive the message and multicasting the message to the appropriate one of the plurality of second e-business entities; and

purging the message when the expiration period lapses.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in ~~claim 1~~claim 2, wherein the expiration time for the message is set after the message is received at the registry service~~responding ones of the plurality of e-business entities are each anonymous to the first e-business entity~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:  
receiving the message at the at least one of the second e-business entities  
registered with the accessed service interface;  
generating a response to the message at the at least one of the second e-business  
entities registered with the accessed service interface; and  
publishing the response directly to the first e-business entity~~based upon the~~  
determining.

7. (Original) A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the responding ones of the plurality of e-business entities are each known to the first e-business entity.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the message is a request for a quote (FRQ).

11. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the response is a quote.

12. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first e-business entity is included in a first enterprise computer system and wherein ~~the~~ at least one of the ~~second~~~~responding~~ e-business entities registered with the accessed service interface is included in a second enterprise computing system.

13. (Original) A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the first and the second enterprise computing systems are different enterprise computing systems.

14. (Original) A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the first enterprise computing systems is an ebXML based enterprise computing system.

15. (Original) A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the second enterprise computing systems is an ebXML based enterprise computing system.

16. (Currently Amended) In a distributed computing environment, a system for transmitting a message from a first e-business entity to selected ones of a plurality of second e-business~~e-business~~ entities, comprising:

a registry service configured to receive a message from a first e-business entity, the registry service including:

a plurality of service interface interfaces, each service interface being configured to identify a plurality of second e-business entities each registered with the respective service interface by a subscription that includes information regarding the respective second e-business entity~~coupled to the plurality of e-business entities each of which subscribes to the service interface by providing information specific to each of the plurality of e-business entities subscribing to the service interface, wherein the service interface information is associated with a list of subscribing e-business entities and associated subscribing e-business information and each of the plurality of e-business entities operating on at least one of a plurality of enterprise computer system protocols;~~

~~a broker with access to a service interface wherein the message is published to the broker by the first e-business entity which in turn looks up service interface description as well as subscriptions associated with said service interface, and wherein the service interface multicasts the message to the selected ones of the plurality of ebusiness entities based upon the information specific to each of the plurality of ebusiness entities subscribing to the service interface, and wherein the first entity is not required to know any one of the plurality of enterprise computer system protocols;~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ wherein when the message is received at each of the selected ones of the plurality of e-business entities the message is reviewed at each of the selected ones of the plurality of e-business entities and, based upon the review, a determination is made whether or not a response to the message is to be generated at each of the selected ones of the plurality of e-business entities, and wherein based upon the determining, the response is published to the service interface, wherein the service interface publishes the response to the broker, and wherein the broker publishes the response to the first ebusiness entity; and~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ a query manager interface configured to allow that enables communication between the broker to query ~~[[and]] the service interface interfaces~~ and enables communication between the broker and a plurality of subscriptions to the interfacesthe subscriptions,~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ wherein the broker is configured to query the service interfaces in response to the message, to access one of the service interfaces based on content of the message, and to cause the registry service to multicast the message to the second e-business entities registered with the accessed service interface based on the information included in the respective subscriptions.~~

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) A system as recited in claim 16, wherein the message is a request for a quote (RFQ).

20. (Original) A system as recited in claim 16, wherein the response is a quote.

21. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 16, wherein the registry service is configured to set an expiration time for the message ~~the message is retained in the broker~~at the registry service until a message expiration period lapses.

22. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

making available a plurality of subscription services through a plurality of subscription interfaces in a distributed computing environment;

arranging for e-business entities ~~each operating on at least one of a plurality of enterprise computer system protocols~~ to selectively subscribe to one or more of the subscription services through the subscription-respective service interfaces-respectively, wherein ~~[[a]] each service interface contains a list of~~includes information regarding the

~~respective e-business entities and wherein a subscription is created which is in communication with a broker via a query manager interface;~~

~~arranging to receive a message associated with a selected one of the plurality of subscription services from a first entity;~~

~~determining at least one of the subscription services to associate with the message based on content of brokering at a broker the message [[by]] and ascertaining the e-business entities that have subscribed to the at least one subscription service associated with the message the broker being in communication with the service interface via the query manager interface;; and~~

~~multicasting the message to at least one of the ascertained e-business entities that have subscribed to the subscription associated with the message, whereby the first entity is not required to know any one of the plurality of enterprise computer system protocols;~~

~~arranging for each of the selected e-business entities to receive the message;~~

~~arranging for each of the selected e-business entities to review the message; and~~

~~arranging for each of the selected e-business entities to determine if response to the message are to be generated respectively;~~

~~arranging for each of the e-business entities that determined if a response is to be generated to publish the responses to the service interface;~~

~~publishing the responses to the broker by the service interface; and~~

~~arranging for the broker to publish the response to the first entity based on the information included in the at least one subscription service associated with the message.~~

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim a-22, wherein arranging to receive the message further comprises claim 22, further comprising:

~~retaining the message for a predetermined set period of time after receiving the message from the first entity;~~

~~determining if an appropriate one of the plurality of e-business entities has subscribed to the associated one of the plurality of at least one subscription services service associated with the message during the predetermined set period of time and sending multicasting the message to the appropriate one of the plurality of e-business subscribers entities that subscribed during the predetermined set period of time; and~~

~~purging the message at the broker after the predetermined set period of time.~~

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the message is a request for a quote (RFQ).

29. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the responses are quotes.

30. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the first entity is included in a first enterprise computer system and wherein at least one of the responding e-business entities is included in a second enterprise computing system.

31. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in ~~claim 22~~claim 30, wherein the first and the second enterprise computing systems are different enterprise computing systems.

32. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in ~~claim 22~~claim 30, wherein the first enterprise computing system is an ebXML based enterprise computing system.

33. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in ~~claim 22~~claim 30, wherein the second enterprise computing system is an ebXML based enterprise computing system.

34. (New) The method as recited in claim 22, further comprising:  
arranging to receive the message at the at least one of the second e-business entities registered with the accessed service interface;  
arranging to generate a response to the message at the at least one of the second e-business entities registered with the accessed service interface; and  
arranging for the response to be published directly to the first e-business entity.